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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,675	01/10/2002	Steven C. Sinn	291P007	3301

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EXAMINER

KEENAN, JAMES W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,675

Applicant(s)

SINN ET AL.

Examiner

James Keenan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9-15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6,8,16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claim 19 remains withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.
2. Claims 15, 16, and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities: the recitations of "said assembly" and "said push assembly" should be consistent. Appropriate correction is required.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (US 869,689) in view of Murano et al (US 5,678,974).

Brown shows a vehicle positioning apparatus for moving a vehicle adjacent an unloader L, including support surface C², movable member P, joining member E, and moving means W. Although the unloader is not for livestock, since this is not a positively claimed limitation, and since the positioning apparatus could be used with a livestock unloader, this does not define over the reference.

Applicant's attempt to overcome the rejection by adding the term "anchored assembly" fails to define over the reference. First of all, nothing in the claims requires the assembly to be anchored to anything in particular or in any particular manner. Thus, the anchored assembly could simply be the motors M or any other fixed component of

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the movable member P. Alternatively, the ground itself could be the vehicle support surface, while the tracks C² could be the anchored assembly having the movable member P. Finally, it is noted that even if the "anchored assembly" were defined such that it required the movable member to be fixed in position, the Brown reference specifically acknowledges such an apparatus as prior art (page 1, lines 10-20), the advantage being that the reference can unload more than one car. Obviously, if only one car (rather than a train of cars) needed to be unloaded, there would be no need for the device to be mobile, and thus Brown is considered to suggest such a feature.

Brown, however, shows the joining member to merely push the vehicle rather than attaching to it.

Murano et al show a device for positioning a vehicle wherein a hitch 40 is used to attach to the vehicle for subsequent positioning thereof.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the apparatus of Brown by utilizing a hitch to attach to the vehicle, as shown by Murano et al, as this would provide a more secure engagement of the vehicle during positioning thereof.

Re claim 5, although Murano et al utilize a cylinder 60, it is a rodless cylinder along which block member 61 moves rather than an extendable and retractable cylinder. Through a rack and pinion mechanism, this ultimately drives the movable member to which the hitch is attached. This provides for a compact drive arrangement (1:2 drive ratio). However, Murano et al do state that any other type of drive could be used, and therefore, it would have been an obvious design expediency to have utilized

an extendable/retractable cylinder when modifying the apparatus of Brown, as this would be a much simpler system in which the advantages of a compact drive mechanism would not be needed.

Re claim 7, the use of a brake is considered an obvious design expediency, particularly in the absence of any disclosed features or advantages thereof.

5. Claims 9-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Murano et al, as applied to claims 1-5 and 7 above, and further in view of Weldy et al (US 3,722,477, cited by applicant) and Jerome (US 6,109,215).

The modified apparatus of Brown does not show the unloader to be a stationary livestock unloader with a base and a primary index comprising a telescopic conveyor for extending into and retracting out of a storage unit on the vehicle.

Weldy et al show a poultry handling apparatus including stationary (when in use) base member 20 and a telescopic conveyor section 80 with an end 90 adapted to extend into and retract out of storage units C on a vehicle. The device is for loading poultry and the vehicle is moved relative to the loading device.

Jerome shows a poultry handling apparatus including a conveyor 43 which can be used for loading and unloading poultry to and from storage units 15 on a vehicle.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have further modified the apparatus of Brown by utilizing it in a system for unloading poultry from storage units on a vehicle, and by using a telescopic conveyor for extending into and retracting out of storage units on the vehicle, as jointly suggested

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by Weldy et al and Jerome, as this would allow for greater flexibility of the unloading device.

Re claims 11-13, note elevating support member 170, pivotally mounted mobile belt section 40, and stationary (when in use) conveyor section 60 of Weldy et al, all of which would obviously be included in the unloading portion of the modified apparatus of Brown as described above.

6. Claims 9-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weldy et al in view of Jerome, Brown, and Murano et al.

Weldy et al, as noted above, is used for loading rather than unloading poultry, and does not show any particular means of moving the vehicle relative to the apparatus.

As noted above, Jerome teaches a conveyor that can be used for loading as well as unloading poultry, Brown shows a means of moving a vehicle relative to an unloading apparatus, and Murano et al show a hitch for connecting to a vehicle to be moved.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the apparatus of Weldy et al such that it could be used for unloading poultry, and to have utilized a device for moving the vehicle relative to the unloading apparatus, including a hitch for connecting to the vehicle, as jointly suggested by Jerome, Brown, and Murano et al, as this would greatly increase the usefulness of the apparatus without requiring undue experimentation or producing unexpected results.

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7. Claims 6, 8, 16, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and to overcome the objections noted above in paragraph 2.

8. Applicant's arguments filed 6/18/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments have been addressed in paragraph 4 above.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

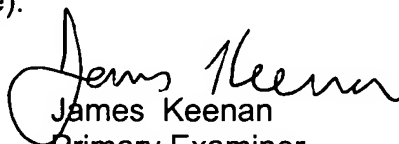
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Keenan whose telephone number is 703-308-2559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James Keenan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3652

jwk
9/24/04